

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /111 W
-----080611 222035Z /66

P 221913Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2016
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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USINT HAVANA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 11379

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, SOPN, UR, US, CG

SUBJECT: SOVIET MAY 20-22 WEEKEND PRESS HITS U.S.
AFRICA POLICY

SUMMARY: MAY 20-22 SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS SHOWS EXTREMELY
HEAVY CONCENTRATION ON WESTERN - ESPECIALLY U.S. -
POLICY TOWARD AFRICA IN GENERAL AND ZAIRE IN PARTICULAR.
RESCUE OF ENDANGERED EUROPEANS IN KOLWEZI IS SEEN BY
SOVIET PRESS AS PRETEXT FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION BY
"NATO COUNTRIES" IN ZAIRE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. EMBASSY
BELIEVES THAT SPECIFIC SOVIET CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S REMARKS ON SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN AFRICA IS INDI-
CATION OF DEPTH OF SOVIET ANGER AT PRESIDENT'S CHARGES.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET (MAY 20-22) WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE
OF ZAIRE EVENTS AND OF U.S. THIRD WORLD POLICY IN
GENERAL REACHES CRESCENDO OF ANTI-WEST, ANTI-U.S.
CRITICISM AND VITUPERATION. FOREMOST AMONG NUMEROUS
ATTACKS IS MAY 21 PRAVDA PIECE ENTITLED "AMERICAN
THREAT TO AFRICA" BY A. SERBIN. WRITTEN IN EXTREMELY
SHRILL, VIRTUALLY COLD WAR TERMS, ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT U.S. CONCERN OVER "SOVIET THREAT"
IS JUST A SMOKE SCREEN TO COVER U.S. POLICY MOVES IN
AFRICA. SOVIET POLICY IS DESCRIBED IN ALTRUISTIC
TERMS, TO WHICH U.S. POLICY IS CONTRASTED. SEC. DEF.
BROWN IS QUOTED ON GEO-STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA
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AND ON ITS GROWING VALUE AS A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL.

2. SERBIN STATES FLATLY THAT, "THERE HAS NOT BEEN
AND IS NOT A SINGLE CASE WHEN U.S. HAS COME OUT IN
AFRICA ON SIDE OF THE PEOPLE." HE THEN CATALOGUES A
LENGTHY LIST OF EXAMPLES OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN
AFRICAN AFFAIRS RANGING FROM CONGO IN 60'S TO ZAIRE
AT THE MOMENT. HE USES HIS CHOSEN EXAMPLES TO
ILLUSTRATE CERTAIN SUB THEMES WHICH INCLUDE THE
FOLLOWING:

-- U.S. HAS SUPPORTED SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS DIRECTED
AGAINST YOUNG, INDEPENDENT STATES OF AFRICA (CONGO,
GHANA, ANGOLA).

-- U.S. HAS SUPPORTED RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA. THOSE WHO SPEAK OF "RACISM" OF SOVIET PEOPLE
KNOW, HE WRITES, THAT "BEHIND THE BACK OF
AFRICA STANDS THE U.S. AND SOME OF ITS NATO ALLIES."

-- U.S. HAS LONG ATTEMPTED TO UNDERMINE AFRICAN UNITY,
E.G., BY CREATING MINI-BLOCS (RED SEA, WESTERN AFRICA)

AND BY NOT SPARING EFFORTS TO CREATE PUPPET REGIMES
IN ZIMBABWE AND RHODESIA.

-- U.S. HAS CONSTANTLY TRIED TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA
BY "FANNING COMPLICATED PROBLEMS" REMAINING FROM
COLONIAL PERIOD, E.G., MOOSE MISSION TO SOMALIA AFTER
QUIETING OF SITUATION IN HORN.

-- U.S. HAS SENT ARMS TO AFRICA WHICH HAVE CREATED A
THREAT TO PEACE ON WHOLE CONTINENT. AN EXAMPLE IS
RECENT M.E. PLANE SALE WHICH GREATLY INCREASES

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P 221913Z MAY 78
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TENSION IN M.E. AND IN CONTIGUOUS REGIONS OF AFRICA.

3. SERBIN MAKES A SPECIFIC CASE OUT OF U.S. POLICY
TOWARD CURRENT EVENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE. AMONG HIS
STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

-- U.S. PROPAGANDA RECENTLY "TRUMPETED" NEWS OF SOME
SORT OF "SOVIET AND CUBAN PARTICIPATION" IN SHABA
EVENTS. THIS HAS BEEN REFUTED AND EVEN STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT THERE
WERE NO CORROBORATIVE FACTS BEHIND THIS CHARGE.

-- THIS MATTER CONCERNS A "PROVOCATIVE FABRICATION,"
BUT, NONETHELESS, U.S. PRESS - "AND NOT ONLY THE PRESS"
CONTINUES TO MAKE SAME OLD CLAIM.

-- AT SAME TIME, AT U.S. INITIATIVE, HUGE AMOUNTS OF
U.S. ARMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ZAIRE AS HAVE BEEN PARA-
TROOPS OF NATO COUNTRIES. THIS "BROAD, ARMED
INTERFERENCE" HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO "RESCUE"
(QUOTES IN ORIGINAL) A FEW HUNDRED CIVILIANS OF
THESE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES IN ZONE OF
"INSURGENT ACTIVITIES" IN SHABA PROVINCE.

4. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IN SERBIN'S ARTICLE IS HIS
REPEATED REFERENCE, BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT, TO THE
PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT, HE WRITES, HAS TWICE
INCLUDED HIMSELF IN "PROPAGANDA MANEUVERS" WITH REGARD
TO ALLEGED SOV IET-CUBAN THREAT - ONCE WHEN HE SPOKE
OF SOVIET RACISM AND ONCE WHEN HE CLAIMED THAT SOVIET
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UNION HAD UNDERTAKEN AN "INVASION OF AFRICA USING
ARMED FORCES."

5. SERBIN'S COMMENTS ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR "MINI-BLOCS"

WERE FORESHADOWED BY THEME OF LENGTHY, CRITICAL ARTICLE ON THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT IN MAY 19 IZVESTIYA. ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY L. KORYAVIN, IS LESS SCATHING IN TONE THAN IS SERBIN PIECE, BUT OVERALL THRUST IS EQUALLY CRITICAL AND EQUALLY ANTI-U.S. KORYAVIN NOTES U.S. "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" POLICY OF SETTING ASIANS AGAINST ASIANS, AND LATIN AMERICANS AGAINST LATIN AMERICANS; AND DESCRIBES ALLEGED IMPORTANCE OF CREATION OF "SUB-IMPERIALIST REGIONAL UNIONS OR MINI-BLOCS" SUCH AS RED SEA BLOC, AND SAUDI ARABIA-EGYPT-SUDAN "AXIS." HE EMPHASIZES IMPORTANT "AGENT-STATE" ROLE OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. ALTHOUGH ARTICLE IS MORE IN CONTEXT OF U.S.-M.E. (ESPECIALLY ISRAELI) RELATIONSHIP, KORYAVIN MANAGES TO INCLUDE CRITICAL COMMENT ON U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE.

6. WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES A VERITABLE FLOOD OF TASS ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON NATO COUNTRIES' INTERFERENCE IN SHABA EVENTS. MAY 22 PRAVDA (KZ HAS NO MONDAY EDITION) CARRIES ALSO TASS HAVANA ITEM REPORTING CUBAN MFA STATEMENT DENYING VARIOUS ZAIRIAN CHARGES AGAINST CUBA. BASIC THEME OF THESE ARTICLES IS THAT U.S. HAS COOPERATED AND UK HAS AGREED TO FRENCH AND BELGIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZAIRE USING HYPOCRITICAL PRETEXT OF RESCUE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN KOLWEZI.

7. COMMENT: WEEKEND COVERAGE OF AFRICA IS MORE INTENSE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 MOSCOW 11379

IN ITS ANTI-WESTERN, ANTI-U.S. SLANT THAN ANYTHING
WE HAVE SEEN IN SOVIET PRESS FOR SOME TIME. INTERESTING
TO NOTE THAT U.S. DRAWS BY FAR THE LION'S SHARE OF
SOVIET IRE DESPITE MORE OBVIOUS ROLE IN ZAIRE BEING
PLAYED BY FRENCH AND BELGIANS. LATTER ROLE IS ALSO
CRITICIZED, OF COURSE. ALSO INTERESTING IS SERBIN'S
EMPHASIS ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CRITICAL OF SOVIET
RACIAL ATTITUDES AND POLICIES VIS A VIS AFRICA. IT
IS UNUSUAL FOR SOVIETS TO SPECIFICALLY TAKE A CHIEF
OF STATE TO TASK (ONLY OTHER NOTABLE EXAMPLE IS
PRESIDENT SADAT) AND FACT THAT THEY HAVE DONE SO IS
INDICATION OF DEPTH OF THEIR IRRITATION OVER PRESI-
DENT'S REMARKS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2616609
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Subject: SOVIET MAY 20-22 WEEKEND PRESS HITS U.S. AFRICA POLICY SUMMARY: MAY 20-22 SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS SHOWS EXT
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, SOPN, UR, US, CG
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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